

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 have been examined: claims 1-4 and 7-30 stand rejected, and claims 5, 6, and 31-36 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter. By the above amendments, claims 1, 26, and 29, 32, 34, and 36 have been amended, and claims 31, 33, and 35 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-30, 32, 34, and 36 are currently pending. Favorable reconsideration of the application and allowance of all of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 22 – 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,615,024 to Boros et al. Further, claims 2 and 3 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Boros in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,583,562 to Birch et al.; claim 4 stands rejected over Boros, Birch, and U.S. Patent No. 6,768,458 to Green et al.; claims 7 – 10 stand rejected over Boros and U.S. Patent No. 6,831,943 to Dabak et al.; claims 11 – 13 stand rejected over Boros and U.S. Patent No. 6,549,527 to Tsutsui et al.; claims 14 – 16 and 18 stand rejected over Boros and U.S. Patent No. 5,809,422 to Raleigh et al.; claim 17 stands rejected over Boros and U.S. Patent No. 5,937,348 to Cina et al.; claims 19 – 21 stand rejected over Boros and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0141478 to Ozluturk et al; and claims 26 – 30 stand rejected over U.S. Patent No. 6,101,399 to Rayleigh in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,631,898 to Dent and U.S. Patent No. 6,072,994 to Phillips et al.

However, the Examiner indicates that claims 31-36 contain allowable subject matter. Independent claims 1, 26, and 29 have been amended to included the limitations of allowable claims 31, 33, and 35, respectively, and claims 32, 34, and 36 have been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, the claims should now be in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to find the application to be in condition for allowance with claims 1-30, 32, 34, and 36. However, if for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Filed concurrently herewith is an excess claim fee in the amount of \$600 for payment of 3 independent claims in excess of the 3 previously paid for. Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time that may be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees required for the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 05-0460.

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Respectfully submitted by:

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